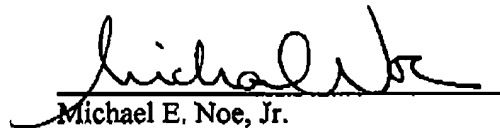


REMARKS

In response to the present office action, Applicant affirms the election of Species II, which corresponds to Figure 4 and Claims 5-7 and 12-13, without traverse, and the cancellation of Claims 1-4 and 8-11.

It is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested. No fee for an extension of time or other fees are believed to be required. However, in the event that one or more fees are required, please charge them to Hitachi Global Storage Technologies' Deposit Account Number 50-2587.

Respectfully submitted,



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